The shoshonf-pannock tribes

FORT HALL INDIAN RESERVATION

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To: Scott Marshall, LSRCP Program Manager

Steve Yundt, LSRCP Research Program Manager

Margaret Anderson, LSRCP Cooperative Agreement Specialist

FR: Lytle Denny, Program Manager

RE: FWS Agreement No.: 141109J015FY

2009 Quarterly Narrative Report October 1 – December 31, 2008

Supplementation Monitoring and Evaluation Program (SMEP)

Program Staff

Lytle Denny, Program Manager/Biologist Kurt Tardy, Anadromous Fish Biologist Carlos Lopez, Anadromous Fish Technician Willie Hicks, Temporary Technician Dean Hicks, Temporary Technician

General Statement

During the performance period, SMEP staff worked with the Tribes Finance Department to transfer the LSRCP budget into the Tribal budget format and system. Staff coordinated activities associated with the Monitor and Evaluation Plan (Denny et. al. 2006) specific to the steelhead stream-side incubator evaluations in the Yankee Fork. We also completed US v Oregon Production Advisory Committee (PAC) proposals for Yankee Fork Chinook and steelhead supplementation. Staff was busy reviewing and commenting on the USFWS Hatchery Review Team (HRT) report on LSRCP Fish Hatcheries and Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) recommendations. Also during this period, the Tribes were working with the Federal Action Agencies to complete a Fish Accord. We had an initial meeting with Scott Marshall to discuss the Crystal Spring Fish Hatchery component of the Tribes Fish Accord. Tribal staff also worked with the USFWS and LSRCP on a production swap of steelhead reared for Yankee Fork at Magic Valley and Hagerman National Fish Hatchery. Staff completed a bull trout report and preliminary adult Chinook salmon run report for Yankee Fork. Project data was entered and analyzed. A mileage report for LSRCP vehicles was submitted on October 13.

Meetings and Coordination

- October 8: Lytle Denny attended US v Oregon Policy Committee Meeting in Portland, Oregon.
- October 9: Lytle Denny attended Northwest Environmental Information Sharing (NWEIS) Executive Summit in Portland, Oregon.
- October 16: Lytle Denny participated in Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) meeting.
- October 22: Lytle Denny participated in US v Oregon Production Advisory Committee conference call; present proposal for Yankee Fork Chinook and steelhead.
- October 20 21: Staff winterized Clayton Satellite Facility and removed two upwellers in Indian Creek.
- November 5: Lytle Denny and Kurt Tardy attended HRT oral report on LSRCP Fish Hatcheries in Boise, Idaho.
- November 20: Kurt Tardy and Carlos Lopez attended Chinook Salmon Technical Oversight Committee Meeting
- December 2: Meeting with Scott Marshall in Fort Hall on Crystal Springs Fish Hatchery.
- December 8: Requested extension on Annual Report developed by Abernathy Fish Technology Center on Steelhead Evaluation in Yankee Fork.
- December 10: Lytle Denny participated in US v Oregon Production Advisory Committee Meeting.
- December 12: Program staff met with Idaho State University to share Yankee Fork electrofishing data for use in the fish demand vs. food availability analysis for the Yankee Fork.
- December 17: Lytle Denny and Kurt Tardy submitted an abstract for the Yankee Fork steelhead presentation at the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

Steelhead Streamside Incubation (SSI) Program Update

The Tribes initiated a steelhead streamside supplementation program in 1995 to help maintain, rehabilitate, and enhance steelhead populations in the Upper Salmon River. The objective is to incubate 1.0 million eggs into five Upper Salmon River tributaries. During the performance period, staff analyzed information from three-pass depletion electrofishing surveys conducted in the Yankee Fork Salmon River at 25 randomly stratified reaches. The electofishing surveys were completed to acquire information associated with fish density, distribution, genetic structure, and parentage analysis; observed densities for all fish was 0.070 fish/m², for steelhead 0.06 fish/m², and for Chinook 0.01 fish/m².

Steelhead progeny parentage analysis is conducted by Abernathy Fish Technology Center. Due to a transition in AFTC staff, the Tribes and AFTC requested additional time to complete the analysis. Results from AFTC genetic analysis are expected in March 2009 and will be used to estimate proportion of SSI fish encountered and SSI survival from incubators to summer parr. Initial results indicate densities are well below historical values for Yankee Fork, although higher than densities observed in 2007 for all salmonids. Again, steelhead are the most abundant species indicating supplementation efforts are increasing abundance.

CC: C. Colter, SBT Fish and Wildlife Director

B. Wadsworth, SBT Contracts